

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

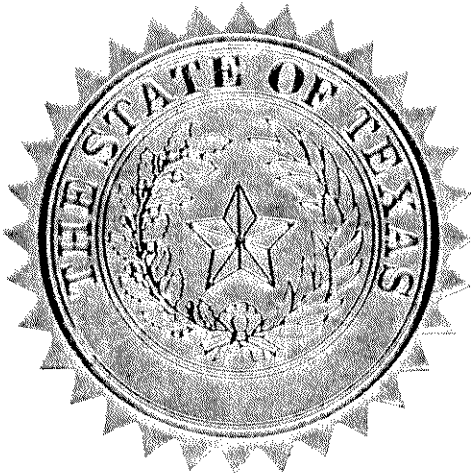
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 1427 as passed by the Eightieth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill No. 1427 would authorize the University of Houston to create a summer learning program for the College of Optometry through funding identified as a special item. This program has existed since 1987 with federal funding. In 2002, the federal grant ended, leading the university to request additional state funding in order to sustain the program. I believe the university should solicit other funds, or use some of the \$6.4 million it was appropriated for Institutional Enhancement, to fund this program identified as a priority.

Higher education special item funding has ballooned out of control, increasing from \$66.9 million in FY 1986-87 to more than \$1 billion in FY 2008-09, an increase of 1,406 percent. I have several concerns about these items. First, many of them are advertised to the legislature as one-time requests, but funding of these projects – many of which have limited value to a school's educational mission – often continues indefinitely. Second, there is limited accountability for these funds, because institutions usually do not report on their performance. Third, many of them address local projects instead of statewide needs. Lastly, some of them are not priorities for the institutions; therefore, they don't request them. In fact, funding for this item was not requested in the University of Houston Legislative Appropriations Request.

Since the Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 15th day of June, 2007.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Roger Williams
ROGER WILLIAMS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
O'CLOCK
JUN 15 2007